

VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS
REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 14, 2015

7:00 p.m.,

Conference Room, Louis Millett Community Complex (LMCC)

The regular monthly meeting of the Village Commission of New Minas was held on December 14, 2015 in the Conference Room of the Louis Millett Community Complex at 7:00 p.m..

In Attendance: Chair Dave Chaulk
Vice-Chair Maynard Stevens
Commissioner Mary Munroe
Commissioner Ken Pineo
Commissioner James Redmond
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

Also in Attendance: Assist. Superintendent of Public Works Gerard Hamilton
Recreation Director John Ansara
Mr. John DeCoste, Reporter
Mr. Jim Winsor, Councillor District 11
Mr. Mark Redmond, Resident

CALL TO ORDER, Dave Chaulk

Chair Chaulk called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: December 14, 2015

It was moved by Commissioner Pineo, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the Agenda for the regular Commission meeting of December 14, 2015 be approved as presented, with the following addition under "OTHER ADDED ITEMS" (a) Granite Drive, 101 Exit – Commissioner Redmond. MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 9, 2015

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Vice-Chair Stevens that the Minutes of the Regular Commission meeting held November 9, 2015 be approved as circulated. MOTION CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) Sale of Civic Center - Update

The Commission agreed to move this item to the end of the meeting, advising that it will be necessary to move to In Camera session.

b) Village Status Process – Update

The Commissioners met with the consultant on November 16, 2015 to discuss the letter from former Minister of Municipal Affairs Mark Furey regarding the completion of the study. The Commissioners agreed to continue to discuss future action on this.

c) Request to Purchase land – Todd Johnson – Update

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that the contents of the Easement as provided meets their requirements, and that Mr. Johnson will be provided with a copy of the document for his approval. MOTION CARRIED

d) Crosswalk request – Bishop Ave East/West on Prospect – Update

After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to refer any crosswalk projects to the 2016/2017 budget discussions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Recreation Director’s Report – John Ansara

Chair Chaulk referred the Commissioners to the Rec Director’s Report. Vice-Chair Stevens congratulated John on a very successful Christmas Light Up, complete with awesome fireworks. He noted that the New Minas Volunteer Fire Department were a great help for the also-successful Santa Claus Parade.

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond that the Recreation Director’s Report be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED

b) New Minas Water Commission Report – Vice-Chair Stevens

Vice-Chair Stevens read the New Minas Water Commission Report (attached to original minutes).

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Redmond to accept the New Minas Water Commission Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED

c) New Minas Area Advisory Committee – Commissioner Pineo

Commissioner Pineo stated there was no New Minas Area Advisory Committee meeting, therefore no report was presented.

d) Sign Committee – Commissioner Munroe

Commissioner Munroe stated that the Sign Committee has met. She stated the sign design still needs some “tweaking”, and the Committee has not yet determined who they will recommend to fabricate it, but the Committee continues to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Christmas wishes from the Chair and Village Commissioners

Chair Chaulk, on behalf of the Village Commission, extended Christmas wishes to everyone. He also congratulated the Village staff for another successful Food Drive – exceeding last year’s total with 2,300 pounds collected. He also noted that the Village staff, through payroll deduction, donates money every year to help needy families at Christmastime. This year, they were able to support two families through their generous donations.

Chair Chaulk stated that these are just two examples of the excellent staff the Village has. He said the Commission is very pleased, and very lucky, to have the dedicated staff, and congratulated them on the work they do and for always giving back.

CORRESPONDENCE

OTHER ADDED ITEMS

a) Granite Drive – 101 Exit – Commissioner Redmond

Commissioner Redmond stated he had attended a meeting with MLA Keith Irving, Councillor Jim Winsor, and Commissioner Pineo. He stated Mr. Irving suggested the Village write another letter to the Minister stating how important the Granite Drive (Exchange) 101 Exit is to New Minas, and the fear that it is slowing development in the area. He said they were advised that the plans show the project will start in the spring, but as we all know, it has been delayed several years already.

The Commissioners directed the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal to this effect.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD

Mr. Jim Winsor, Councillor District 11 – Councillor Winsor spoke of the letter to the TIR Minister, and suggested that another letter should also go to the County encouraging Council to also write a letter to the minister of the same nature.

Councillor Winsor stated that Council met today regarding the new Municipal Administration complex. He said the original RFP was cancelled, and Council agreed to move forward with a new Design-Build RFP, and to engage an architect who will go through a public participation

process. He stated that he made a motion to not limit the location to only one, but the motion was defeated.

Councillor Winsor stated there is a Special Council meeting tomorrow with the key Agenda item being the Stantec report on electoral boundaries for Kings County, which recommends going to the Mayoral system of governance with a reduction to 9 districts. This would leave New Minas intact. However, there was a different option, submitted by staff, which will be considered by Council, but is not part of the Stantac study. He said this will create a different scenario of 8 Districts. He stated he has many concerns about this – 1. Council did not direct staff, nor was the whole Council aware that staff was doing anything, and 2. New Minas will basically be split into two districts, with the boundary going along Granite Drive. He said one of the requirements for electoral boundaries of the NSUARB is that it complies with “Community of Interest”, and this staff-produced scenario does not conform to that requirement. Councillor Winsor stated he is very concerned about what happened and urged all Commissioners and staff who could attend tomorrow’s meeting to do so.

Chair Chaulk asked Councillor Winsor if he knew of any rationale for staff to do their own study. Councillor Winsor stated he was not at all sure. He stated at the meeting on Electoral Boundaries was held in Greenwood, the *Alternate 8 Districts* was labeled as a “Staff Alternate” and at that meeting, when Deputy Warden Hirtle was asked about it, he stated it went to the CAO. Councillor Winsor said he wasn’t sure who the staff members were that worked on it, and Deputy Warden Hirtle stated that he asked the CAO to look into an alternate to “see how he can blend urban and rural settings”.

Chair Chaulk commented that it seems absurd and Vice-Chair Stevens stated that a consultant was hired to do the study, provided a comprehensive report, and it seems unrealistic that a staff member would have this much weight to suddenly put together a scenario that is not solicited by all of Council, and that Council is seriously considering it. He stated, “it’s mind-boggling”.

Chair Chaulk stated that perhaps Council will make the right decision and we will have to wait for tomorrow’s meeting. He asked Councillor Winsor if any other municipalities are affected to the degree that New Minas is by this staff submission. Councillor Winsor stated in his opinion, he didn’t think so. He went on to state that the NSUARB requires for electoral boundary placement:

- Community of Interest
- Parity of Voters
- Natural divisions

Clearly, dividing New Minas right down the middle does not comply with those requirements. He noted in Kingston, Highway 101 is a natural boundary; this staff proposal for New Minas is to cut New Minas right between the business district at Granite drive. Commissioner Munroe stated that Cornwallis Square and Aylesford were split, but Councillor Winsor noted this does not have the same impact as splitting New Minas.

Chair Chaulk thanked Councillor Winsor for his information and noted again the debate will be taking place tomorrow.

b) Sale of the Civic Center – Update

It was moved by Vice-Chair Stevens, seconded by Commissioner Munroe to move to an In Camera Session to discuss the Sale of the Civic Center and negotiations for this sale. MOTION CARRIED

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Pineo to move back to the regular session of the Commission meeting. MOTION CARRIED

The audience members were invited back into the meeting.

It was moved by Commissioner Redmond, seconded by Commissioner Munroe that a 30-day extension be granted to the Purchaser. MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Vice-Chair Stevens, the meeting adjourned.

Dave Chaulk, Chair

Terry Silver, Clerk Treasurer